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*Slavery in Germanic Society during the Middle Ages.* By AGNES MATHILDE WERGELAND, PH.D., Late Professor of History, University of Wyoming. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1916.

This work is reprinted from the *Journal of Political Economy* as a memorial to the author. Dr. J. Franklin Jameson, in the preface to the book, pays fitting tribute to the author's scholarly attainments, her literary excellence, her inspiration as a teacher, and her nobility of character.

The author treats the subject of slavery under three aspects: first, reduction, the downward course, the slave becoming more and more a thing; secondly, restitution, the amelioration of slavery; and thirdly, liberation.

Slavery and the slave trade were common in Europe till after the tenth century. Freeman were reduced to slavery through conquest, crime, and debt. In the downward course, the slave was a thing and not a person; his existence was vested in his master. The master could take the life of the slave with impunity, but if he killed the slave of another master he was liable for damages. If a slave killed or struck a freeman he was put to death, even if the act was unintentional. The master was under no legal obligation to his slaves, and treated them severely. They were much whipped, receiving sometimes 240-300 lashes.

Amelioration in the condition of the slaves was brought about by their military service, by the example set by the king in exalting slaves to places of dignity, and by the church through pressure upon the slaveholder. The personality of the slave first emerged when the law held him and not his master responsible for his crime. Land began to be granted to slaves and thereby many won partial freedom. The slaves were first liberated conditionally, later they purchased their freedom or received it as a grant by the nation, king, church, or private individual. Freedom was gradual, however, and merged into serfdom.

The chief value of the book is in its data, derived from original sources, which furnish the basis for a comparative study of slavery.

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